

MSW ADMISSIONS REQUIREMENTS

- Bachelor's Degree from an accredited university conferred before the semester for which admission is sought
- Cumulative GPA of at least 3.0 on a 4.0 scale from your undergraduate degree institution *
- Evidence of adequate preparation to begin graduate study
- Successful completion of the online application for admission via CollegeNet (including resume, personal statement, references, and unofficial transcript)

**Exceptions may be made on a case-by-case basis*

Applicants are encouraged to apply early. Admission to the MSW Program is competitive.

For questions specific to your situation, please contact Dr. Rhonda Peterson Dealey, MSW Program Director rhonda.petersondealey@washburn.edu

IS THE MSW PROGRAM AVAILABLE ONLINE?

More than half of the courses have online options. However, some clinical courses and electives are only offered on campus.

WHEN CAN I APPLY?

Summer/Fall Admission: November 16—January 15

Spring Admission: July 1—October 15

Applications received after the deadline date will be considered on a space-available basis only.

Applicants are encouraged to apply early. Admission to the MSW Program is competitive.

DO I NEED AN UNDERGRADUATE DEGREE IN SOCIAL WORK?

No. You do not need an undergraduate degree in social work to be considered for admission to the MSW Program. To be admitted to the MSW Program, applicants must have a baccalaureate degree from a college or university accredited by the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools, or a comparable accrediting body. Consistent with the importance ascribed to the liberal arts perspective by Washburn University and CSWE, the applicant must present evidence of adequate preparation to engage in graduate study, including the satisfactory completion of undergraduate coursework in the natural sciences, social sciences, humanities, English composition, mathematics, biology, and cultural diversity.

WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN REGULAR VERSUS ADVANCED STANDING?

The Regular Standing Program is for the student who has an undergraduate degree in a discipline other than social work. This program typically is completed in two years by full-time students and four years by part-time students. Most regular standing students are required to complete the full 66 hours in order to earn the MSW degree.

The Advanced Standing Program is designed for students whose baccalaureate degree in social work from a Council on Social Work Education accredited program was conferred within the past 10 years.

HOW LONG DOES IT TAKE TO COMPLETE THE MSW PROGRAM?

Regular standing students attending full time can complete the program in 2 years. Students have up to 4 years to complete the program.

Advanced standing students attending full-time can complete the program in 11 months. Part-time options are available also.

WHAT DOES THE COURSE SCHEDULE LOOK LIKE?

First year (Foundation) classes are typically offered on Mondays and/or online. Second year (Clinical) classes are typically offered on Wednesdays. Sometimes electives and extra sections of required courses will be available on Tuesdays or Thursdays.

A sample course schedule is available here (attached doc)

IF I AM INTERESTED IN THE PART-TIME PROGRAM, HOW SHOULD I APPLY?

The online application has a section to indicate if you prefer part-time or full-time.

Links to the applications are located at the top of this web page.

DO I HAVE TO TAKE THE GRE?

No, the GRE is not required.

WHAT IS THE GRADE POINT AVERAGE (GPA) REQUIREMENT?

Undergraduate cumulative GPA of at least a 3.0 on a 4.0 scale.

WHAT SHOULD I INCLUDE IN MY PERSONAL STATEMENT?

Your personal statement is your opportunity to introduce yourself and make your case for readiness for graduate education in social work. You should describe your interest in clinical social work practice as well as your assets and weaknesses relevant to this career path. You should read the NASW Code of Ethics <https://www.socialworkers.org/about/ethics/code-of-ethics> and discuss its relevance and your ability and willingness to comply with it.

Personal statements are also viewed as a writing sample. Typographical and grammatical errors will be viewed unfavorably.

HOW ARE LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION SUBMITTED?

In the online application, include the name and email of each reference. Submission of your application will generate an automatic email to your references with a link and instructions for them to follow. Successful completion will automatically return the reference form to Washburn University.

References should be encouraged to attach a letter of recommendation with their reference form.

HOW DO I SUBMIT TRANSCRIPTS?

You will be asked to upload an unofficial copy of your transcript in the application process. An official copy of the transcript from the institution which conferred your undergraduate degree must be sent to Washburn University for admission to the University.

Note: If you attended Washburn University, you will not need to submit this transcript or other transcripts previously submitted to Washburn, as these are already in the Washburn data system.

***If you haven't graduated yet**, you must submit an official transcript with all grades posted through the semester prior to the application deadline.*

DO YOU OFFER APPLICATION FEE WAIVERS?

No – fee waivers are not available.

WHEN WILL I FIND OUT IF I HAVE BEEN ACCEPTED?

Your application will be reviewed once all supplemental documents have been submitted to the Department of Social Work. Notifications of acceptance or denial will be sent via email following the close of the application period.

ONCE I HAVE SUBMITTED MY ONLINE APPLICATION, CAN I MAKE CHANGES TO MY REFERENCES?

You should be able to log into your CollegeNet account and make changes to your references.

CAN I SCHEDULE A VISIT BEFORE I APPLY?

Yes! We encourage prospective students to visit Washburn University and the Department of Social Work.

Please contact the Social Work Office at 785-670-1616 to schedule an individual appointment.

WHO DO I CONTACT IF I HAVE QUESTIONS ABOUT MY APPLICATION?

Please call the social work office 785-670-1616 or email Marcelle Shrake at marcelle.shrake@washburn.edu

HOW CAN I LEARN MORE ABOUT SOCIAL WORK AND LICENSURE?

You can find more information about what social workers do on the website of the National Association of Social Workers <https://www.socialworkers.org/>

You can find more information about licensure in the State of Kansas on the website for the Kansas Behavioral Sciences Regulatory Board (BSRB) <https://ksbsrb.ks.gov>

DO YOU OFFER SCHOLARSHIPS?

For more information, view the [School of Applied Studies Scholarship Application](#).